

**Two points I failed to make this morning that might be of interest to the panel discussing insurance reform.**

- 1. When was social security legislation passed? During the depth of the depression. Our country has made sweeping social program changes in the midst of economic chaos and survived.**
- 2. Some form of very large purchasing group has to come from reform. (A public option or pooled insurance groups). Extremely large buying groups are needed to bring physician incomes in line with the rest of the world. When our physicians make between \$150,000 and \$2 million dollars per year and physicians in Europe are paid \$50,000 to \$250,000 per year something is wrong with the picture. Specialty care in the U.S. has gotten way too lucrative and the only way to get the horse back in the barn is to make monumental change in the reimbursement system. It may take 20 years to accomplish but we have to stop business as usual in physician reimbursement or we will not get our costs under control.**

**Thanks for the opportunity to speak this morning.**

**Dave Linder**